

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An electromagnetic radiation delivery apparatus for skin treatment, the apparatus comprising:

a housing;

a radiation delivery head in the housing for having a source of electromagnetic radiation;

an emission window in the housing for optically coupling to the source of electromagnetic radiation and being able to emit the electromagnetic radiation;

a recess in the housing which is open on one side;

vacuum means in the housing for lowering a pressure inside the recess; and

a pressure gauge in the housing recess for measuring a pressure inside the recess;

and

a control means connected to the pressure gauge and to the source of electromagnetic radiation, the control means preventing the source of electromagnetic radiation from emitting electromagnetic radiation when the pressure measured by the pressure gauge within the recess is higher than a predetermined threshold value.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the threshold value is from 10 to 250 mbar below ambient pressure.

4. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein during a period of time in which the measured pressure inside the recess is below the threshold value, the control means prevents the electromagnetic radiation source from emitting electromagnetic radiation above a predetermined maximum amount of energy.

5. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the control means comprises a shutter that is able to prevent emission of the electromagnetic radiation.

6. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein an emission window is present in the recess.

7. Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a-the recess is a circumferential recess that surrounds the emission window and creates a space that is separate from the source of electromagnetic radiation.

8. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 4Z, wherein the circumferential recess comprises a circumferential edge positioned towards the open side.

9. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the circumferential edge is flexibly deformable.

10. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the circumferential edge lies on a plane surface, on a concave surface or on a convex surface.

11. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the electromagnetic radiation comprises infrared radiation, visible optical radiation or ultraviolet radiation.

12. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the source of electromagnetic radiation comprises electromagnetic radiation generating means and electromagnetic radiation guiding means optically connected thereto.

13. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the electromagnetic radiation guiding means comprise a mirror, a hollow electromagnetic radiation guide or an optical fiber.

14. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the source of electromagnetic radiation comprises a laser, a flash lamp, a LED, a gas discharge lamp or an incandescent lamp.

15. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the vacuum means includes a pump for pumping air through a vacuum outlet coupled to the emission window and an exhaust tube coupled to the environment.

16. (New) The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the emission window seals off the source of electromagnetic radiation from the circumferential recess.

17. (New) The apparatus according to claim 1, the control means connected to vacuum means, the control means shutting the vacuum means when the pressure measured by the pressure gauge has reached the predetermined threshold value.

18. (New) The apparatus according to claim 17, the control means connected to vacuum means, the control means shutting the vacuum means when the pressure measured by the pressure gauge has reached the predetermined threshold value.

19. (New) The apparatus according to claim 18, the control means starting the vacuum means when the pressure measured by the pressure gauge rises from the predetermined threshold value to a pressure above the predetermined threshold value.